

work. simply put, we need serious commonsense reform of the failed welfare system.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, WORKING TO PROHIBIT AMERICANS FROM VOTING

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

WHAT WELFARE REFORM MEANS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I could not help but take issue with my colleague who has just spoken about what welfare means. I hope the Republicans understand that welfare reform means giving people an opportunity to bridge out of dependence with child care, with health care, with job training.

There is not one of any of the individuals who are Americans who have said that welfare is the claim of their life. They want to be independent. It is a shame, however, that the welfare reform that our Republicans have tried to put forward simply says that we will abandon those, the least of our brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, let me offer, first of all, the tragedy of what is going on in the Committee on the Judiciary this morning. We in the Committee on the Judiciary, of high ideals and standards holding up the Constitution, are there now trying to deny those citizens who have come to this country and are citizens the lack of ability, if you will, to be able to express themselves by voting on the ballot.

We want now to eliminate bilingual ballots for the U.S. Government for those senior citizens who have lived and worked here, those Asians, Hispanics, and others who have come, who have given of themselves, can speak the language, but may not be able to read as well so they can vote in the U.S. election.

How tragic it is that we are turning the clock back, as well as denying minorities the opportunity to do business with the American Government. What a shame. What a tragedy.

HEROIN USE HAS BECOME EVEN MORE DEADLY

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, while cocaine abuse has leveled off, heroin use once again is rapidly on the rise.

Today's heroin from abroad is cheaper, purer, and much more deadly than ever before. In fact, estimates of heroin's street-level purity indicate it has gone from an average of 4 percent up to a staggering 70 percent or more on purity level.

A recent GAO study indicated that worldwide opium production has nearly

doubled since the late 1980's, while U.S. emergency room episodes from heroin overdoses increased by some 50 percent.

Just recently, in New York City, we had the much-publicized Red Rum heroin overdose death of a member of the Smashing Pumpkins Band, along with the arrest of that band's drummer for possession of heroin, and cancellation of the band's sold-out performances.

Spelled backward, Red Rum is murder, and in the case of the Smashing Pumpkins member's overdose, it was indeed lethal, taking his life. It surely is murder. Let us hope that the Red Rum message is not one that Red Rum and other forms of heroin are trendy; rather than heroin use is serious and in this case can be deadly.

LINK BETWEEN ILLEGITIMACY AND WELFARE?

(Mr. CONYERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, to my astonishment, I just heard my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio, MARTIN HOKE, the distinguished member of the Committee on the Judiciary from Cleveland, OH, make an incredible link between illegitimacy and welfare. I think he knows what he is talking about, because he is a very brilliant Member of this body. Perhaps his 1-minute was so truncated that we were not able to get to the bottom of what it was that was bothering him.

But I would like to invite him privately to join with me to discuss this serious matter of welfare, because I do not want the kind of assumptions that were linked together in a 1-minute presentation to be taken as a serious point of view by my good friend, the gentleman from Cleveland, OH.

THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST FLIP-FLOP, APPEASING FIDEL CASTRO ON SANCTIONS

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, within the hour the President of the United States has waived sanctions on Fidel Castro that he himself, Bill Clinton, signed into law just 5 months ago. This latest flip-flop is an extraordinary appeasement of the Communist dictator that will not work.

Since Castro began his sadistic and pathologically anti-American rule in 1959, he has denied civil rights and political liberties at home and exported revolution throughout the hemisphere.

Indeed, beyond assisting dictators and dictatorships, in our own hemisphere he has fielded soldiers and troops in no less than 14 African countries in 1 moment. Cuba has not one independent newspaper, not one independent school, not one independent labor union. Castro continues to exe-

cute and imprison political prisoners, and has driven 1.3 million Cubans into exile in this country.

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union should have choked off Castro's rule, but he still is alive, in large part because of sustenance from the Clinton administration. Having signed the Libertad Act 5 months ago and said that he was for sanctions on Castro, Bill Clinton is now using his Presidential authority to waive those very sanctions.

Appeasing Castro is the wrong way for America to proceed. This latest flipflop of Bill Clinton's is more than a broken promise to the American people and the world. It is, in fact, capitulation that will endanger the world's security. Bill Clinton should be ashamed of himself.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS GOING THE WRONG WAY ON BILINGUAL BALLOTING, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, AND THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS

(Mr. EVANS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EVANS. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his kindness in yielding to me. It was difficult for me to be able to complete a statement that I wanted to make regarding the Committee on the Judiciary on this very historic day of July 16.

I mentioned bilingual balloting, which just simply allows those adults who may speak English, but may not read it very clearly, to cast their vote as American citizens. But likewise, we are reviewing this whole issue of affirmative action, and clearly, it has taken the wrong direction.

I rise for the purpose of citing the Wall Street Journal, where there is an article on an angry CEO from California who happens to be blasting a Catholic nun. The Catholic nun simply wrote to say "As a stockholder, I would encourage you to have minorities and women on your board." This CEO took it upon himself to write an ugly spirited letter, castigating the nun, suggesting she should mind her own business.

That is what happens when the Federal Government begins to take away rights. The private sector then thinks it must rally around ugliness and divisiveness.

I would commend to this CEO to think that this country is full of talented, diverse individuals who understand cyberspace, understand the superhighway, and I commend to him that it is reasonable that he could find minorities and women to serve on his board. What a tragedy. The reason we have that is because the Federal Government is going the wrong way.